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DOCKET NO.: OMOR-0010 (Y03S012-PCT-US)
Application No.: 10/530,219
Office Action Dated: November 16, 2006

Amendments to the Drawings

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to **FIGURES 8A to 8C**. The sheet (8/31), which includes **FIGURES 8A to 8C**, replaces the original sheet (8/31) including **FIGURES 8A to 8C**.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet 8/31

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REMARKS

- Claims 1 to 15 are pending and rejected. More specifically,
- Claims 4 to 6 and 8 to 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite;
 - Claims 1, 2, 14, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by EP-A1-1,152,362 ("Maeda");
 - Claims 1 to 5, 7 to 10, 14, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by EP-A2-1,288,868 ("Kawai");
 - Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over Kawai in view of US-A-5,619,630 ("Minami"); and
 - Claims 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over Kawai in view of JP 2003-006245 ("Aragaki")

Applicants are herein amending claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, and 11 to 15 and canceling claims 2 and 5, without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants are amending Figures 8A to 8C. Applicants request reconsideration in light of the amendments and following remarks.

Claim Amendments

Applicants are herein amending claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, and 11 to 15. No new matter is introduced by the amendments to the claims. For example, the addition of "assembly structure information" to claims 1, 14, and 15 does not introduce new matter, given that it is a common knowledge among those skilled in the art that three-dimensional CAD (or XVL) data contains an assembly structure of a product.

Applicants are herein canceling claims 2 and 5, without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants explicitly reserve the right to file one or more continuation applications to the cancelled subject matter.

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Amendments to the Drawings

Applicants are amending **Figures 8A to 8C** to remove extraneous text (from title of sheet) that inadvertently across these figures. No new matter is introduced by the amendments to the drawings.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 4 to 6 and 8 to 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. More specifically:

- Claim 4 is rejected for alleged lack of antecedent basis of the phrase "said basic process" in line 2.
- Claim 4 is rejected for alleged lack of antecedent basis of the phrase "the process parts group" in line 4.
- Claim 8 is rejected for alleged lack of antecedent basis of the phrase "the basic process" in line 3.
- Claim 8 is rejected for the alleged lack of antecedent basis of the phrase "the disassembly definition information" in line 5.
- Claim 11 is rejected for the alleged lack of antecedent basis of the phrase "the movement" in lines 2 to 3.
- Claim 12 is rejected for the alleged lack of antecedent basis of the phrase "the interference" in line 2.

Applicants are herein amending claim 4 to have it depend from claim 3, rather than claim 1, thereby rendering moot the rejections relating to lack of antecedent basis in claim 4 for "said basic process" and "the process parts group."

Applicants are herein amending claim 8 to further clarify the language, thereby rendering moot the rejections relating to lack of antecedent basis in claim 8 for "the basic process" and "the disassembly definition information."

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Applicants are herein amending claim 11 to state "a movement" rather than "the movement," thereby rendering moot the rejection relating to lack of antecedent basis in claim 11 for "the movement."

Applicants are herein amending claim 12 to state "an interference" rather than "the interference" in line 2, thereby rendering moot the rejection relating to lack of antecedent basis in claim 11, line 2 for "the interference."

Accordingly, applicants submit that claims 4, 6, and 8 to 12, as amended, are definite under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and therefore request withdrawal of the rejection.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

EP-A1-1,152,362 ("Maeda")

Claims 1, 2, 14, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by EP-A1-1,152,362 ("Maeda"). Applicants traverse the rejection because Maeda fails to disclose, teach, or suggest, *inter alia*, a step where *a user defines a parts list* (disassembly definition information) from 3-dimensional data (assembly structure information).

More specifically, in the present invention, 3-dimensional information (assembly structure information of a product) is imported, which is *used by a user to define a parts list*. Each parts list has fully corresponding disassembly definition information. For example, Figure 8F is an example of a parts list, and Figures 8A to C show different displays of essentially same disassembly definition information that corresponds to Figure 8F. If the disassembly definition information is changed, then the illustration generated based on the information is also altered accordingly. This disassembly definition information (part list) defines the processes of disassembling/assembling and parts that constitute the processes and their display (illustration) attributes.

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Maeda discloses the use of an *existing* parts list and 2-dimensional image data of parts of a product in different disassembled states for generating a parts catalog (See, for instance, Paragraph [0250]). For example, Figure 10 show an illustration of parts with reference numbers and a parts list, however, the illustration itself is not created in Maeda's method, therefore, the illustration shown in Figure 10 can be searched, but no alteration can be made to the illustration itself. Whereas in the present claimed invention, illustrations are generated according to a disassembly algorithm, which is generated based on a *part list (disassembly definition information) defined by a user using 3-dimensional data (assembly structure information)*. Therefore, different illustrations can be created for each part or partially assembled parts. Maeda does not disclose, teach, or suggest such disassembly definition information nor the use of 3-dimensional data to generate these illustrations.

In Maeda, parts have numbers that have been assigned on them, however, neither the order of their appearance (*e.g.*, top to bottom) nor the reference numbers constitutes any order in actual assembling or disassembling. "Disassembly definition information" as used in the pending claims are *user-defined processes* that define the order of assembling/disassembling, and each process (node) is a basic unit of process animation, where attributes of each animation section is defined.

The main difference between the claimed invention and Maeda is that the claimed invention provides a *user full control* for the creating of process trees from assembly structure data of a given product, which is entirely distinct from the original assembly structure data. On the other hand, Maeda's process is bound to the original parts list and 2-dimensional image data of parts of a product in different disassembled states for generating a parts catalog. The claimed invention is, thus, distinct from and provides advantages over Maeda because it is not bound to an existing parts list, but it allows users to create the most appropriate parts list (disassembly definition information) and 3-dimensional data (assembly structure information).

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Since Maeda does not disclose each and every element of the claims either explicitly or inherently, Maeda does not anticipate claims 1, 2, 14, and 15. Accordingly, applicants request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Maeda.

EP-A2-1,288,868 ("Kawai")

Claims 1 to 5, 7 to 10, 14, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by EP-A2-1,288,868 ("Kawai"). Applicants traverse the rejection because Kawai fails to disclose, teach, or suggest, *inter alia*, a step where *a user defines a parts list* (disassembly definition information) from 3-dimensional data (assembly structure information).

The method disclosed in Kawai imports assembly structure information, and illustrations of disassembled parts are generated based on "disassembling condition data." Kawai does not disclose, teach, or suggest the creation of process trees (disassembly definition information) in which a user defines the order and direction of disassembling/assembling among other things. In the present claimed invention, illustrations are generated according to a disassembly algorithm, which is generated based on a *part list (disassembly definition information) defined by a user using 3-dimensional data (assembly structure information)*. Therefore, different illustrations can be created for each part or partially assembled parts. Kawai does not disclose, teach, or suggest such disassembly definition information.

In Kawai, parts have numbers that have been assigned on them, however, neither the order of their appearance (*e.g.*, top to bottom) nor the reference numbers constitutes any order in actual assembling or disassembling. "Disassembly definition information" as used in the pending claims are *user-defined processes* that define the order of assembling/disassembling, and each process (node) is a basic unit of process animation, where attributes of each animation section is defined.

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Since Kawai does not disclose each and every element of the claims either explicitly or inherently, Kawai does not anticipate claims 1 to 5, 7 to 10, 14, and 15. Accordingly, applicants request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Kawai.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Kawai in view of US-A-5,619,630 ("Minami")

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over Kawai as applied to claims 1 to 5, 7 to 10, 14, and 15 in view of US-A-5,619,630 ("Minami"). Applicants traverse the rejection because Minami does not supply the required limitations missing from Kawai. Thus, even if it were obvious to modify the Kawai method in the manner urged by the Office (and applicants are not conceding that it would have been obvious to do so), one would still not have obtained applicants' claimed method. More specifically, Minami does not supply the creation of process trees (disassembly definition information) in which a user defines the order and direction of disassembling/assembling among other things.

Based on the foregoing reason, the combination does not render claim 6 obvious. Accordingly, applicants request withdrawal of the rejection of claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Kawai in view of Minami.

Kawai in view of JP 2003-006245 ("Aragaki")

Claims 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over Kawai as applied to claims 1 to 5, 7 to 10, 14, and 15 in view of JP 2003-006245 ("Aragaki"). Applicants traverse the rejection because Aragaki does not supply the required limitations missing from Kawai. Thus, even if it were obvious to modify the Kawai method in the manner urged by the Office (and applicants are not conceding that it would have been obvious to do so), one would still not have obtained applicants' claimed method. More specifically, Aragaki does not supply, *inter alia*, the creation of process trees (disassembly

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definition information) in which a user defines the order and direction of disassembling/assembling among other things.

Based on the foregoing reason, the combination does not render claims 11 and 12 obvious. Accordingly, applicants request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Kawai in view of Aragaki.

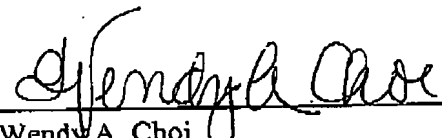
Conclusions

Applicants requests:

- (1) entry of the amendments to the claims;
- (2) entry of the amendments to the drawings;
- (3) reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the claims; and
- (4) allowance of claims 1, 3, 4, and 6 to 15.

If the Examiner is of a contrary view, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at (404) 459-5642.

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